

DC Bicycle Advisory Council Meeting
Wednesday, July 9, 2003

Minutes

BAC member in attendance

Chris Craig
Dan Barry
Jacque Patterson
James Koski
Jim Sebastian
Raymon Murchison
Rudi Schreiber
Lyn Stoesen

1. Quorum Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. A quorum was not present at the start of meeting, but a quorum met by 7:30 p.m.

2. Minutes

The March 5, 2003 minutes were approved with minor corrections. The May 7, 2003 minutes were also approved.

3. Bicycle Master Plan Update

Tami Sufi of Toole Design described the results of the ward rides and workshops. The Wards 1 and 2 rides, cancelled because of rain, may be rescheduled. About 100 participants attended all events. Maps with data from the workshops are still being compiled.

Overall issues:

- Connectivity & accessibility (bicycle level of service, parking lanes, access to jurisdictions & trails, parking, etc).
- Safety & security (education, enforcement, legislation)
- Encouragement & promotion (info for visitors & residents, marketing, etc.)
- Policies & Practices (health, planning, etc.)

The project team will be looking more closely at specific recommendations. Ellen Jones of WABA commented on how many people from different wards, as well as from Maryland, came to ward-specific workshops.

Preliminary survey results:

There were about 250 responses with more to come. The primary purpose of peoples' most recent bike trip overwhelmingly was "work." This is in part because there were many responses from bike to work day. In contrast, the number one trip purpose in the

1975 survey was "neighborhood." Other survey results discussed were factors influencing decision to ride, factors encouraging bicycling, crash experience (many more in 2003 than 1975 involved in crashes, with more involving motor vehicles), best streets for bicycling (East Capitol Street is #1!); and where bike facilities are needed

Bike Plan Vision, Goals and Objectives:

The BAC discussed the vision statement for the bike plan. Most people liked "The District of Columbia will be a world-class bicycling city that offers residents and our guests of any age and ability a safe convenient network of bicycling facilities for all types of trips"

The draft Goals are as follows:

Goal 1 - connectivity and accessibility. One example mentioned was connections to neighboring jurisdictions.

Goal 2- safety & security. The council discussed examples such as helmet usage for kids and road conditions.

Goal 3 - encouragement & promotion. People asked to include awareness of cycling to combat obesity, cultural aspects of riding, promoting entrepreneurship, targeting the school system, and fostering opportunities for youth. Some thought the government should push cycling as an alternative to driving (i.e. a tax deduction for biking to work).

Goal 4 - policies & practices

The BAC discussed school board outreach; police cyclists; encouraging the city to promote cycling; DC should work with federal government & agencies; adding bike info on driver's ed courses and in exams; targeting taxi & other professional drivers

The council discussed measuring progress and setting up milestones. Ellen argued against counting only commuter trips. Should we have a numerical goal: bike trips will be 10 percent of all trips by 2020? We should check with similar cities for goals. We should have a crash reduction goal, considered as a percentage of total bike trips; reducing bicycle theft and increasing bike recovery; increasing percentage of registered bikes; quantifying mass transit goals.

Many said the draft goals and objectives are too broad. The project team will work on the language.

4. Bicycle Registration

The legislation committee recently voted to adopt a voluntary registration system with a national, private company. Ellen asked whether this meant repealing the existing law. Rudi said yes.

A motion to accept recommendation of legislation committee was moved by Raymon Murchison and unanimously approved by voting members.

5. Bicycle Facilities Update from Jim

Mass Ave., SE - ward 7 along Ft Dupont - bike lanes to go in; Jim will attend ANC meeting.

Mass Ave., NW - just resurfaced along 5 blocks. DDOT made each of the 4 lanes 12.5 feet to prevent drivers making extra lanes; cyclists complain that outside lane is now too narrow.

A discussion ensued on dealing with similar situations and the development of striping guidelines. At what level should bike office be consulted for road projects? Chris Craig suggested writing a letter. Chris will draft letter, then the BAC will vote by email.

1st St., NE – DDOT will be extending the bike lanes to N Street at the new NY Ave Metro Station when this piece is reconstructed next year.

R St – The resurfacing, currently from 8th to 16th NW will include bike lanes

Eastern Ave – 2 sections will be reconstructed, Riggs to New Hampshire and North Capitol to Carroll Street. They will most likely not include bike lanes, but may include some sort of narrowing or traffic calming.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 8:03 p.m.